

To see the list

Former candidates for elected office in Macomb County owe more than \$35,000 in fines for either filing campaign-finance reports late or not at all. To see who owes fines, visit www.macombcountymi.gov/CLERKS_OFFICE/electionDept.asp and click "Pay campaign-finance fees online." These candidates or committees owe the most:

- William Hertel, for county commission, \$3,000.
- Excellence In Education Committee, \$2,750.

FINE | County shames candidates who owe campaign report late fee

From Page 1B

said five former candidates coughed up a combined \$2,030.

With a \$1,175 tab, Greg Murray, a Mt. Clemens School Board member, tops the list of current office-holders who owe fines. Records show Murray failed to turn in two campaign-contribution reports for 2004 and 2005.

Murray said he never filled

out forms that indicate he wasn't raising money and therefore didn't need to file a report.

"It was an oversight," insisted Murray, who said he is addressing the fines. "I raised no money."

State law prohibits people with late fines from making a new bid for office until they pay up.

The largest tab of fines — \$3,000 — belongs to Republi-

can William Hertel of Fraser, a 2004 candidate for county commissioner who failed to file multiple campaign reports. He couldn't be reached for comment.

Two dozen to three dozen Oakland County candidates owe late fees. Wayne County officials said they don't keep a list of people who owe fines.

Rich Robinson, director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, a watchdog

group, hailed the Web listing as a catalyst for prompting candidates to comply with the law.

"Candidates don't want to show up on a list like that, and I think that will make them more diligent about getting the reports in on time," Robinson said.

The listing comes just before candidates are required to turn in reports on campaign contributions Friday.

Roger Cardamone, the chief election clerk for the county, said the listing is likely to compel candidates to weigh the political ramifications of not filing the reports on time.

"Candidates know their opponents, the media and political watchdogs are watching," Cardamone said.

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Politicians shamed into paying fines

Late-report fees, names now online

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Shame is a mouse click away for political candidates in Macomb County.

Fed up with office-seekers not paying fines for late reports on campaign contributions, county Clerk Carmella Sabaugh has posted their names on the county's Web site.

The nearly 50 candidates owe between \$20 and \$3,000 for having delinquent reports, which show how much

an office-seeker raised and who contributed.

"It's the public's right to know who is handing in their reports on time," Sabaugh said Monday, adding that Macomb is the first county in the state to post a list on the Internet. "When you run for public office, you are under scrutiny."

Getting scofflaws to pay up has been a challenge in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, where candidates often ignore mailed notices. Short of taking candidates to court, counties have little recourse to collect the fines.

Since sending out letters earlier this month warning of the public listing, Sabaugh

See FINE, 5B

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